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# Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 076931

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, NATO, PARM
SUBJECT:GROMYKO'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN BRIEFINGS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS CONCERNING SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S TALKS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN WASHINGTON APRIL 12.
2. GENERAL. THE TONE OF THE TALKS WAS GOOD, SOBER BUT POSITIVE. GIVEN THE MUCH MORE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE AS COMPARED WITH THE TALKS IN MOSCOW, THERE WAS OPPORTUNITY ONLY TO REVIEW A LIMITED NUMBER OF TOPICS. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, THE PRIMARY FOCUS WAS ON SALT AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. SALT. THE EXCHANGES ON THIS TOPIC CONTINUED TO BE EXPLORATORY AND AIMED AT DETERMINING WHETHER COMMON GROUND COULD BE FOUND FOR A PARTIAL AGREEMENT FOCUSING ON MIRV'S. THE PROBLEM OF VERIFICATION CONTINUES TO BE A DIFFICULT ONE TO RESOLVE. THE TALKS WERE HELPFUL IN
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TERMS OF CLARIFYING THE RESPECTIVE APPROACHES OF THE TWO

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SIDES. WE ARE REVIEWING OUR OWN POSITION IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET LEADERS AND EXPECT TO HAVE FURTHER EXCHANGES AT VARIOUS LEVELS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE APPROACH CAN BE WORKED OUT BY THE TIME OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE USSR FOR A PARTIAL AGREEMENT.

4. THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS REMAINS A SENSITIVE AREA IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS. AS WAS THE CASE IN MOSCOW, THE MAIN FOCUS OF GROMYKO'S APPROACH WAS TO GET THE GENEVA CONFERENCE RECONVENED AND TO HAVE THE SOVIETS INVOLVED IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE TALKS. ONCE AGAIN, WE DID NOT GIVE ANY COMMITMENT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD BE PHYSICALLY INVOLVED IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE TALKS, BUT WE DID AGREE TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THEM. WHILE THE SOVIETS CLEARLY FEEL STRONGLY ON THE ISSUE OF PARTICIPATION, GROMYKO DID NOT DEAL IN TERMS OF ULTIMATA OR INDICATE THAT MOSCOW WOULD SABOTAGE THE CURRENT DELICATE EXCHANGES UNDERWAY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA IF ITS DESIRES WERE NOT MET IN TOTO.

5. BERLIN. THERE WAS A BRIEF EXCHANGE ON BERLIN IN WHICH BOTH SIDES REITERATED THEIR KNOWN VIEWS.

6. CSCE. THIS DID NOT ARISE EXCEPT IN PASSING. GROMYKO INDICATED SATISFACTION THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME RECENT PROGRESS IN GENEVA.

7. MBFR. GROMYKO REFERRED IN PASSING TO LACK OF PROGRESS, ATTRIBUTING IT TO THE WESTERN POSITION.

8. WEATHER MODIFICATION (ON AN IF ASKED BASIS ONLY). IN A BRIEF EXCHANGE ON POSSIBLE SUMMIT AGREEMENTS, GROMYKO REAFFIRMED SOVIET INTEREST IN AN AGREEMENT NOT TO MODIFY THE ENVIRONMENT IN A WAY DELETERIOUS TO HUMAN LIFE. WE REMAIN PREPARED TO HAVE EXPERTS LOOK INTO THIS TOPIC, BUT SINCE WE HAVE STILL NOT DETERMINED THE USG POSITION, THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS.

9. OTHER POSSIBLE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. THERE WAS NO
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SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF OTHER PROPOSALS, BUT WE CONTINUE TO WORK ON POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH, HOUSING, SPACE, THE TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF ENERGY PROBLEMS, AND A LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT.

10. IN BRIEFING NATO REPRESENTATIVES, YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO DRAW ON SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS APRIL 12, WHICH WE ASSUME ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU FROM WIRELESS FILE.

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